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11 February 1983

SOUTHEAST ASIA REPORT

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ORDER ON REWARDS FOR BLACK MARKET GOODS

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY 14 Jan 83 p 5

[Text]

**Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma
Council of Ministers**

Order No. 3/81

Dated 1 June 1981

Order concerning rewards regarding black-market goods

1. The Council of Ministers hereby issues this order to enable the Ministries concerned to give rewards regarding black-market goods.

2. The Ministries concerned shall offer rewards for seizures of black-market goods such as gems, metals and agricultural and forest products which are to be dealt with only by the State as designated by the laws, rules, regulations, orders and directives and goods which are being smuggled out of or into the country.

3. Disposal and value assessment of the seized black-market goods shall be made by the Ministry concerned as directed.

4. Regarding gems and metals which are to be dealt with only by the State as designated by laws, rules, regulations, orders and directives—

(a) a person who personally surrenders with-

out concealing articles to the Ministry concerned shall be given a monetary reward of 50 per cent of the value of those articles;

(b) or if that person should keep the articles the person who gives information leading to seizure and organizations which carry out the search and seizure shall be given rewards as provided for in this Order.

5. (1) Rewards for seizure of black-market goods shall be made as follows—

(a) 50 per cent of the value of the articles seized shall be paid in to the State and 50 per cent shall be designated as monetary reward;

(b) the 50 per cent designated as reward is to be divided into 50 portions;

(c) The first 20 portions shall be paid to the person who gives information as reward;

(d) The second 20 portions shall be credited to the Central Fund for welfare of service personnel of the State;

(e) The remaining 10 portions shall be given as reward to the organization which carries out investigations and the organization which makes the seizure.

(2) The Ministry concerned shall, from time to time, reappraise the reward arrangement for seized black-market goods as given in sub-paragraph (1) above and submit proposals to the Council of Ministers for refixing the ratio.

6. When seizure of black-market goods is made, the organization making the seizure shall send, as soon as possible, a list of the goods seized to the Ministry concerned.

7. After the goods seized have been confirmed as confiscated, the value of the goods, shall be

estimated and the rewards to be given out as in paragraph 5 above shall be calculated based on that value. Arrangements must be made for immediate payment of half of the rewards based on the estimated value to the person who gives the information, to the organization which carries out the investigation and to the organization which makes the seizure respectively.

8. After determining the exact value of the seized goods the Ministry shall re-calculate the amount of rewards to be given under paragraph 5. The difference between the re-calculated reward and the reward given immediately as calculated under paragraph 7 shall then be paid out.

9. The organization which carries out the investigation and the organization which makes the seizure shall apportion the reward in accordance with the rules and directives laid down by the Ministry concerned.

10. In cases of seizures made at the township level the organization concerned shall send up the matter for reward in each case through the Township People's Council executive committee to the Department concerned.

11. For purposes of giving rewards for seizures made at the State/Division level, the organizations

concerned shall submit each case, after obtaining the recommendation of the State/Division People's Council Executive Committee, to the Department concerned.

12. For purposes of giving rewards for seizures made directly by the central level under special arrangement, the organization concerned shall submit the cases to the National Intelligence Bureau.

Rewards shall be made only with the approval of the National Intelligence Bureau.

13. The Ministry concerned shall form the following bodies for purposes of giving rewards—

- (a) value assessment body;
- (b) Department level body for giving rewards;
- (c) Ministry level body for giving rewards.

14. The Department level body for giving rewards is empowered to give rewards up to K 10,000 (Kyats ten thousand) in each case.

15. The Ministry level body for giving rewards is empowered to give rewards ranging from K 10,000 (Kyats ten thousand) to K 500,000 (Kyats five hundred thousand) in each case.

16. If the amount of rewards to be given in each case exceeds K 500,000 (Kyats five hun-

dred thousand), the Ministry concerned shall give the reward with the approval of the Council of Ministers.

17. (1) Rewards of K 500,000 (Kyats five hundred thousand) received for one case or for a number of cases within a year shall be exempt from income-tax.

(2) For rewards in excess of K 500,000 (Kyats five hundred thousand) received for one case or for a number of cases within a year, income-tax shall be assessed on the amount in excess of Kyats five hundred thousand.

(3) The period "within a year" given in the foregoing paragraph, means one year reckoned from the date of receipt of the first reward by a person following the issue of this Order.

18. For purposes of successfully carrying out the provisions of this Order, the organizations concerned may prescribe appropriate procedures and issue suitable directives.

19. All orders, directives and procedures issued in the past relating to the giving of rewards for seizure of goods, covered by this Order, which are contrary to the provisions of this Order shall be deemed nullified.

Sd Hla Tint
Secretary
Council of Ministers

EDITORIAL SUPPORTS BLACK MARKET GOODS LAW

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY 14 Jan 83 p 4

[Text]

THE Customs Department has been handing out rewards to deserving persons for their help in providing information leading to the seizure of black-market goods.

The rewards are being handed out under Order No 3/81 issued by the Council of Ministers concerning rewards regarding black-market goods.

In this connection, it is worthy of recall that Party Chairman U Ne Win, then as President, expressed his concern over the loss of State property through smuggling both ways. Addressing the seventh session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw in March 1981, he explained that two orders were issued in December 1980 to induce the people's participation in uncovering smuggling activities and instituting legal action. The orders provide incentives for the private citizens as well as State employees to involve themselves in the anti-smuggling activities with greater interest and devotion.

The Council of Ministers, on 1 June 1981, issued two orders, Order No 2/81 relating to rewards for seizure of narcotic drugs and Order No 3/81 relating to rewards for seizure of black-market goods such as gems, metals, agricultural and forest products and contraband imported or meant to be exported. These two orders are more complete and precise versions of the ones issued in December 1980 which have been rescinded.

The handing out of rewards for information leading to seizures of black-market goods is appropriate for smuggling and black-

marketing activities are a serious threat to our efforts of establishing a socialist society and cause damaging dislocations in our planned economy. Blackmarketeers smuggle out precious items from the country and bring in contraband from across the border evading customs duty both ways and thereby causing double loss to the State.

The volume of blackmarketing activities may be gauged from the fact that more than K 58,569,000 worth of blackmarket goods were seized as of end of November 1982 for fiscal 1982-83. This is a staggering amount.

Since the blackmarketeers thrive at the expense of the State and the people, it is necessary for the working people as well as State employees to become actively involved in anti-smuggling activities.

In this connection, it is worthy of note that the Customs Department paid out K 3,920,755 to deserving persons providing information leading to seizures of blackmarket goods in fiscal 1981-82 as compared to K 1,234,661 handed out in 1980-81.

The handing out of rewards for blackmarket goods seizures should serve as a reminder to the people that exposing blackmarketing activities serves the society and the self at the same time and should be a helpful aid in our anti-smuggling activities.

SPK' REPORTS KHMER MUSLIM CONDEMNATION OF 'CGDK'

OW191025 Hanoi VNA in English 0705 GMT 19 Jan 83

[Text] Hanoi, 19 JAN, VNA--The Muslim community in Kampuchea has warmly welcomed the decision of India not to invite Sihanouk to the 7th summit of the Non-aligned Movement to be held in New Delhi in March this year, SPK reports.

At a meeting held in Phnom Penh on January 18 under the sponsorship of the Council of the United Front for National Construction and Defence, and attended by more than 1,300 Khmer Muslims, Mat Ly, member of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea and vice president of the National Assembly, strongly condemned the Beijing expansionists, the U.S. imperialists and the ruling circles in some ASEAN countries for having created the so-called "tripartite coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea" headed by Sihanouk, Son Sann and Khieu Samphan. This manoeuvre, he pointed out, aims not only at undermining the peaceful life of the Kampuchean people, opposing the tendency toward dialogue, peace and progress in Southeast Asia but also at torpedoing the fundamental principles of the Non-aligned Movement and creating and widening the schism within its organisation.

Mat Ly underlined that Sihanouk, traitor to the nation, who is living in exile, has no quality whatsoever to participate in the New Delhi conference.

Mat Ly warmly thanked the Indian people and other peace-loving peoples for their declarations condemning the tripartite coalition government as a disguise for the sanguinary Pol Pot clique.

The meeting adopted an open letter to the Islamic faithful throughout the world, calling on them to put to failure an attempt to get Sihanouk the permission to come to the 7th summit of non-aligned countries.

The letter stresses that the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists and the U.S. imperialists who are nurturing the "coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea" constitute a danger to peace, human rights and the religion of the oppressed and exploited peoples.

The letter calls on the Muslims in all other parts of the world to support their Khmer brothers in their just struggle to restore the seat of the People's Republic of Kampuchea at the international organizations.

Also at this meeting, Abdul Koyom, member of the Front Council, vice president of the Front Committee in Phnom Penh, made a report on the crimes of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan clique against the Khmer Muslims.

The report said that during more than three years of their rule the genocidal clique massacred a still unaccountable number of Khmer Muslims who are mostly of the Cham ethnic minority. In the Chraing Chamres Ward of Phnom Penh alone, of the 1,752 Cham families deported after April 17, 1975 only 248 have returned following January 7, 1979, Abdul Koyom said.

He added that also in this war 709 out of the total of 807 homes had been destroyed.

CSO: 4200/331

BRIEFS

AVIATION DELEGATION DEPARTURE—Vientiane, 10 Jan (OANA-KPL)--The Lao civil aviation delegation led by its director, Phoun Khammounheuan, left here on January 8 to attend the conference of the Asian-Pacific countries on civil aviation, which is to be held in Singapore. The conference is to study the division of the flying zones and the air traffic in views to improve the air transport within the region. [Text] [BK121603 Vientiane KPL in English 0926 GMT 10 Jan 83]

SRV RADIO, TELEVISION DELEGATION—Vientiane, 28 Jan (OANA/KPL)—Trinh Ly Than, deputy-director of the Vietnamese committee for radio and television and his delegation called on Thongsing Thammavong, president of the state committee for news agency, newspaper, radio and television. The host and guests, on this occasion, exchanged views on the strengthening of the relations and co-operation between the two committees and T. Thammavong thanked the Vietnamese delegation for some technical suggestions given to the Lao side in the project of setting up the Lao television. He also wished for the strengthening of the friendship and solidarity between the two countries and peoples, and particularly the cooperation between the state committees of Laos and Vietnam. [Text] [BK310747 Vientiane KPL in English 0857 GMT 26 Jan 83]

RADIO DELEGATION TO MOSCOW—Vientiane, 27 Jan (OANA/KPL)--The delegation of Lao national radio and television left here on January 26 to attend the conference of the radio and television directory board of the socialist countries which is to be held in Moscow from February 2-3. The delegation was led by Son Khamvanvongsa, vice-chairman of the state committee for news agency, newspaper, radio and television. [Text] [BK310747 Vientiane KPL in English 0916 GMT 27 Jan 83]

SOVIET BANK DELEGATION—Vientiane, 26 Jan (OANA/KPL)--The Soviet delegation of Foreign Trade Bank led by its director, Solomina, arrived here on January 24, for an official friendship visit to Laos at the invitation of the Lao Bank for Foreign Trade. The Soviet delegation is to meet with its Lao counterpart to discuss on the financial clearance between the two banks and to exchange experiences. [Text] [BK310747 Vientiane KPL in English 0859 GMT 26 Jan 83]

SRV PROVINCIAL DELEGATION--Vientiane, 26 Jan (KPL)--The economic and cultural delegation of the Vietnamese Province of Son La from January 20 to 22 has paid an official visit to the Lao northeastern Province of Houaphan, at the invitation of the provincial administrative committee. During its visit, the Vietnamese delegation has exchanged views with the Lao local authority on the cooperation between the two provinces and has signed the 1983-85 agreement on the cooperation between the two provinces. [Text] [BK310747 Vientiane KPL in English 0900 GMT 26 Jan 83]

TECHNICAL DELEGATION HOMEBOUND--Vientiane, 26 Jan (KPL)--The delegation of Lao scientists and technicians led by Professor Vannalet Latsapho, deputy-minister of public health, was back home on January 22 from a conference held in Ho Chi Minh City to study the chemical substances used by USA in Indochina. Prof Vannalet reported that the conference has been organized for the first time in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam from January 13 to 20 and over 160 scientists and experts from 21 countries and observers from international organizations attended the conference during which views on bad and long-term consequences of chemical substances used by USA were raised. Prof Vannalet also said that proofs on the consequences of chemical substances which still affect human life and environment were clearly given by scientists and from the victims of the Indochina war. The conference unanimously agreed on steps further to find out means to prevent human life, animals and environment from bad consequences. [BK310747 Vientiane KPL in English 0901 GMT 26 Jan 83]

INDIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION--Vientiane, 27 Jan (KPL)--The charge d'affaires of India to Laos, Tara Singh, on January 26, gave a reception to mark the National Day of India (Jan 26, 1950-Jan 26, 1983). Among the Lao leaders who were present at the reception were Sali Vongkhamsao, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee, Soulivong Phasithidet, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and other high ranking officials. The diplomatic corps and representatives of international organisations were also on hand. The reception was held in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality. [Text] [BK310747 Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 27 Jan 83]

TRADE ACCORD WITH POLAND--Vientiane, 28 Jan (OANA/KPL)--Laos and Poland signed here, on January 26, a protocol on trade exchange. Laos will provide Poland with forestry products and industrial plants and, in exchange, Poland will provide to its partner consumer goods and medicines. Signing the protocol for the Lao side was Chanpheng Bounnaphon, deputy-minister of trade and [for the Polish side] Antoni Karas, deputy-minister of external trade of Poland. [Text] [BK310747 Vientiane KPL in English 0905 GMT 28 Jan 83]

OUTGOING BULGARIAN ENVOY--Vientiane, 21 Jan (KPL)--Phoun Sipaseut, Political Bureau member of the party CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister for foreign affairs, on January 20 received here the Bulgarian ambassador to Laos, Zhecho Radunoy who is approaching the end of his diplomatic mission here. The meeting proceeded in a warm and cordial atmosphere, during which P. Sipaseut expressed thanks to the Bulgarian Government for its support and assistance in socialist construction in Laos.

P. Sipaseut also emphasized the furthering of solidarity and cooperation between the two nations, and finally wished Z. Radunov success in his new post and good trip home. Z. Radounov was accredited to Laos on 1021/79 [10 January 1979]. [Text] [BK211237 Vientiane KPL in English 0931 GMT 21 Jan 83]

CSO: 4200/334

MORE TROOPS DEPLOYED IN MINDANAO

Manila BULLETIN TODAY 27 Jan 83 pp 1, 6

[Text]

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Jan. 26 (PNA) — A Marine battalion and two Army battalions were deployed in Northern and Eastern Mindanao to beef up a combined military and police operation, PC chief Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos said today.

Ramos, concurrently Armed Forces vice chief of staff, said the three battalions were moved out from the Zamboanga peninsula.

They were deployed in border areas in Northern and Southern Mindanao where large-scale attacks were launched recently by the New People's Army (NPA) against police stations, military detachments, and patrol bases, Ramos said.

During a conference briefing, the PC Region 10 headquarters at Camp Alajar, General Ramos disclosed that Southern command chief Maj. Gen. Delfin Castro has autho-

rized the deployment of the three battalions in the wake of increasing dissident activity in the areas.

The four regional commanders in Mindanao, including task force, special unit, and provincial commanders, held a command conference against dissident groups.

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Jan. 26 (AP) — A group of 40 armed rebels killed a civilian guard and seriously wounded a town mayor riding a motorcycle on a rural road, military authorities said Wednesday.

It was the third time this month a mayor had been attacked by members of the New People's Army in Northern Mindanao, according to police. The first two were killed, they said.

A PC report said Jimmy Salan, who was guarding Maguysay Mayor Felix Prin, was killed in the attack. Prin suffered

wounds that required amputation on a hand, it said.

Killed in that earlier attacks were Mayor Arcenio Pundar of Prosperidad and Reno V. Yap of Sapang Dalaga.

MARBEL, South Cotabato, Jan. 26 — Terrorists believed to be members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) attacked barangay Tinogas, Tboli, this province, Friday, beheaded three persons, and wounded three others, it was learned today.

The group, reportedly led by one Kumander Paulo, killed one person and wounded two others the day before in barangay New Cebu.

Beheaded were a certain Oscar, his father, and a brother.

A report said the terrorists riddled with bullets several houses inside a resettlement area of the Ministry of Agrarian Reform (TPR).

CSO: 4200/335

INTERNATIONAL BANKS APPROVE CENTRAL BANK LOAN

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS 27 Jan 83 p 10

[Article by George T. Nervez]

[Text] Sixteen international banks committed recently to grant a loan of over \$300 million to the Central Bank for relending to the private and public sectors.

CB Gov. Jaime C. Laya said yesterday that the CB wanted to tap only \$300 million for its consolidated foreign borrowing program (CFBP) but the 16 banks committed to provide \$20 million each, or a total of \$320 million.

Laya said that the oversubscription of the CB loan, the CB's first major foreign borrowing this year, was an indication of the continuing confidence in the soundness of the Philippine economy and in the management of the external debt.

The 16 banks, which will shortly be given formal mandate as lead managers of the CB loan, include nine American, five Japanese banks and two of the major European banks.

The mandate will be issued to Bank of America, Chase Manhattan Capital Markets Group, Chemical Bank, Citicorp Capital Markets Group, Crocker National Bank, First National Bank of Chicago, Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co., Marine Midland Bank and Morgan Guaranty.

The lenders group also includes the Bank of Tokyo Ltd., Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, Fuji Bank, the Mitsubishi Bank Ltd., Sumitomo Bank Ltd. Banque Indosuez and, Banque Nationale de Paris.

The 16 banks are currently seeking managers and participating institutions for lesser amounts. Four such banks that have indicated support for the loan are Irving Trust, Korea Exchange Bank, Union Bank (California) and the Bank of New York.

The Manufacturers Hanover Trust and Fuji Bank have been asked to coordinate for the non-Japanese and the Japanese banks, respectively.

The \$300-million loan has an eight-year maturity and is divided into two tranches, of \$180 million priced at 0.5 percent a year over the US prime rate and, \$120 million priced at 7/8 percent a year over the London InterBank Offered Rate (LIBOR).

The Citicorp is the agent for the prime tranche of the loan, while the Bank of Tokyo will be responsible for the LIBOR portion.

The front-end fee is 7/8 percent, while commitment fee is 0.5 percent, the CB said.

Laya said that the \$300-million loan is expected to be the CB's only major borrowing this year.

The CFBP was formulated in 1978 to keep a closer tab on the foreign borrowings of various Philippine entities in the international capital markets. It was also intended to lower the cost of foreign loans because of the advantage of relatively large-scale borrowings.

Under the program, the CB borrows substantial sums abroad and relends the borrowed funds to public and private sector end-users. The borrowers benefit from the CFBP because the CB charges minimal spreads when the funds are relend to them.

CSO: 4200/335

RICE EXPORTS BY PRIVATE SECTOR BACKED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS 27 Jan 83 p 10

[Article by Resty Perez]

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture recommended recently to President Marcos that the private sector be allowed to export rice to help the government dispose of its excess stocks.

The ministry reported that exportable rice this year is estimated to reach 385,000 metric tons. The volume is too huge for the NFA to handle because its financial resources are already tied up in inventories that it cannot liquidate, it added.

The NFA is the government agency controlling all of the country's rice exports.

The NFA is already "carrying maximum stock levels" which may prevent it from buying more palay from farmers at the government support price of P1.70 per kilo by the ministry noted.

At best, the report said the NFA can only buy about 11 million cavans of palay this year, slightly less than what it procured last year. It is also less than half of NFA's target to buy 15 percent of total production of 165.7 million cavans.

The ministry said that the private sector is in a better position to export rice than the NFA.

The NFA, it was pointed, "can only export at a substantial loss because world market prices are 45 percent below NFA costs."

On the other hand, export by private sector could be viable because traders buy their palay from farmers at prices ranging from \$180 to \$200 per ton. Export prices hover around \$240 per ton, the ministry said.

Moreover, the excess rice has to be exported to prevent the glut from depressing the palay farmgate prices, it added.

The ministry's request to allow the private sector to export rice sharply runs counter to a policy reaffirmed by the government during the last Philippine Business Conference.

NFA administrator Jesus Tanchanco said that his agency will continue to control rice exports to protect the country's image as a reliable rice supplier.

In the past, there were instances where some rice traders delivered inferior quality rice to NFA for export, he said.

CSO: 4200/335

LIBYA SPONSORED ISLAMIC CENTER PROPOSED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY 27 Jan 83 pp 1, 6

[Text]

A P38-million Islamic center will soon rise in the southernmost part of the Philippines through financial assistance from the Libyan government. It will be called the Muammar Al Qaddafi Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies.

Director Ibrahim Sarabi, acting officer-in-charge of the Mindanao State university (MSU)-Sulu College of Technology and Oceanography (SCTO), presented the plan yesterday to Ambassador Mustafa M. Dreiza, Libyan ambassador to the Philippines.

The total cost of the proposed center is

P 38,285,400 or \$4,288,239. It will be constructed on 10 hectares of the SCTO's 56-hectare campus in Sanga-Sanga, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

The center was conceived as a joint project of the MSU-SCTO and the government of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya through the Al Fatah University in Tripoli.

The center will have a central mosque, museum and library, academic building, amphitheatre, living quarters, dining hall, and other physical facilities.

Dreiza said he will deliver personally the proposal to Tripoli when he leaves on Jan. 30 to consult with his government. He said he is seriously considering Sarabi's proposal but added that his government will have the final say.

Dreiza assured that construction of the center is not remote.

Dreiza also announced that the P12-million 150-bed Libyan-Philippines Friendship Hospital in Marawi city donated by his government two years ago, is now in full operation. (RCS)

CSO: 4200/335

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

IMPORT TAX HITS—The 3 percent ad valorem tax on all imports is actually 17.5 percent to the consumers and manufacturers. The legitimate businessmen and the consumers are hit hard by this tax, but the smugglers benefit. They make more profits every time they are able to get away with it. They can afford more failures and still make the same profits. The trouble with our laws is they hit the law-abiding and favor the violators. [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS 27 Jan 83 p 4]

CSO: 4200/335

THAILAND

REFUGEE INFLUX FEARED AS BORDER FIGHTING RESUMES

BK271222 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 27 Jan 83 p 3

[Text] Interior Minister Sitthi Chirarot this morning warned that Thailand will not accept any more Kampuchean refugees, and will push back immediately those who enter the country.

General Sitthi said he was commenting on headlines of some local dailies which say thousands of Kampucheans were now massing at the Thai-Kampuchean demarcation zone, ready to enter Thailand.

They said that a Kampuchean influx was feared as heavy fighting between Kampuchean and Vietnamese-backed troops had broken out again.

General Sitthi did not say how Thailand would push out the Kampuchean refugees but said the Thai military at the border could prevent them from entering Thailand.

He said Thailand did not want a Kampuchean exodus here but should it come, the United Nations should be responsible for the refugees.

The report from the border area opposite Ta Phraya District this morning said fighting between the Kampuchean guerrillas forces and the Vietnamese-led troops was continuing.

Vietnamese forces were planning to attack the Kampucheans in the Nong Chan area where some 25,000-30,000 Kampucheans were massed, field sources said.

At 11 p.m. yesterday, Kampucheans ambushed a Vietnamese convoy at Kilometre Marker 20 on Highway No 5 where a military truck, loaded with ammunition and weapons was destroyed.

Two Kampucheans were reported missing, and three others were wounded in the fierce attack.

The army at the border reported that the Vietnamese were building up their forces at the border.

Heavy fighting took place last night in the area opposite Non Mak Mun Village.

CSO: 4200/332

THAILAND

SENIOR CPT OFFICIAL IN NORTHEAST DEFECTS

BK100244 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 10 Jan 83 p 3

[Text] A senior communist member who controlled a provincial-level zone in the northeast has defected to the government while about 60 other communist insurgents and sympathizers in another northeastern operational zone plan to surrender en masse on Thursday, intelligence officers told THE NATION over the weekend.

The leading communist defector was identified as Comrade Than, alias Comrade Yuthasat, ex-secretary general of zone 555, which straddles Kalasin, Sakhon Nakhon and Udon Thani provinces. The sources said that Comrade Than, 45, was the third provincial secretary general of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) to have defected to the government in the past three months.

Thong Thipsen, alias Comrade Wiwat, secretary general of zone 999, was the first to give himself up to the government while Sawat Mahisya, whose jungle name is Comrade Norot, surrendered last December in a mass defection of about 1,000 communist insurgents and sympathizers, from zone 444.

Zone 999 straddles Kalasin and Sakhon Nakhon, while zone 444, which was automatically dissolved following the mass defection, covered Ubon Ratchathani, Yasothon and Mukdahan.

Chief Intelligence Officer of the Second Army Region Col (Special) Sa-ngiam Rattanasimakon told THE NATION that the army will hold a ceremony to receive about 60 communist insurgents and supporters who have decided to defect en masse in Dong Luang sub-district of Mukdahan Province, on Thursday.

The ceremony will be chaired by Second Army Region Commander Lt Gen Phak Minakanit, according to Col Sa-ngiam.

He said that "a large number" of communist guerrillas from zone 555 and zone 666, straddling Khon Kaen, Udon Thani and Kalasin, would gradually surrender to the government this month.

"We are stepping up efforts to dissolve all remaining CPT operational zones in the northeast. I expect we will achieve our goal very soon," he said.

He said that the 60-odd communists scheduled to defect this Thursday originally belonged to a small operational zone, codenamed "Petchaburi," which is part of zone 111. Zone 111 covers areas in Tao Ngoy District of Sakon Nakhon and Khamcha-i District in Mukdahan.

The communists and their followers fled from the Petchaburi zone to zone 333, now the largest operational zone in the northeast, following military pressure on 111.

Col Sa-ngiam also said that the Second Army Region has not been able to establish channels of communications with secretary general of the northeast zone, Prachuap Ruangrat, alias Uncle Siam.

"He will be the last in the northeast to defect, since he is the senior most member in the region," the colonel added.

Informed sources said that Comrade Than defected to the government along with "numerous" followers. The communist defectors were not detained, according to the sources.

Meanwhile, a highly-placed intelligence source predicted that the secretaries general of zone 111 and zone 333 would soon surrender to the government.

"Assistant Army Chief-of-Staff Lt Gen Chaowalit Yongchaiyut is negotiating with them and the probability of their surrendering, possibly later this month, is very high," he added.

He did not rule out the possibility that the surrender of the two communist leaders could come during mass defections in their respective operational zones.

On December 1 last year, about 1,000 communist insurgents and supporters defected to the government from zone 444.

A second mass defection came later with the dissolution of the communist's operational zone in Umphang District of Tak Province.

CSO: 4200/332

STUDENT GROUPS OPPOSE MOVE TO OPEN PARLIAMENT

BK200600 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 20 Jan 83 p 3

[Text] Students of two major universities--Thammasat and Ramkhamhaeng--yesterday openly opposed against the move to open a special session of parliament to debate the constitutional amendments.

They announced that they would carry on their protest in the public as well as persuade the people to pay more attention to the controversy.

Seksan Nisaikla, chairman of Thammasat University's ad hoc committee on the extraordinary house session, said a meeting of student leaders from 16 groups in Thammasat University came to a conclusion that a review of electoral system for the next nationwide polls was not justified to declare open the special session.

He said students would also protest against the move to legally allow government officials to become political appointees.

Seksan said changes of the two major points in the constitution would be against the democratic system.

Thepthhai Senphong, a student leader of Ramkhamhaeng University, said a group of students in his university has conducted a survey of the people's opinions on the issue.

The conclusion of the survey will be made known tomorrow, he said, adding that the purpose of the survey was to sound out the people's views on the constitutional amendments.

He said Ramkhamhaeng University students would rally in front of the parliament house if a special house session was held to show that "the amendments of the constitution are against the people's will."

Thepthai also confirmed a report that some student leaders were earlier invited by civilian chief of the capital security command to join a move to open a special parliamentary session.

"The students turned it down after learning that their move was against the democratic system," he said.

A group of lecturers at Ramkhamhaeng University's faculty of political science, meanwhile, issued a statement to show their strong opposition to the constitutional amendments.

They also criticized the military for its role in last Sunday's television programme.

CSO: 4200/332

UNIONS PLAN PROTEST IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT

BK230320 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Jan 83 pp 1, 3

[Text] Ten stevedoring unions plan to join forces next week to stage a mass protest in support of constitutional amendments to election laws, a senior union source told the BANGKOK POST last night.

Leaders of the 10 unions and other worker groups attended a closed meeting last night to map out their strategy for the rally.

Stevedore union leaders, headed by Lamiet Pradapsi and Wichian Siwichian, believe that worker interests will be threatened and their representation in Parliament further undermined unless the electoral system is changed. Unless the law is changed, a combined constituency-single party voting system will apply in the general elections scheduled for June 12.

Mr Bunnao Klinchan, secretary-general of the Marine Transport Union, said those involved in the rally sought the restoration of the multiple constituency system because they believed it would "preserve democracy."

Mr Bunnao claimed that workers were already under-represented in Parliament because of the multiple constituency system. But the new system would leave the workers worse off while serving the interests of the rich, he said.

The 10 unions have a combined membership of 60,000 and Mr Bunnao said he expected hundreds of workers to take part in the protest. It is not yet known when it will occur.

Union leaders, including those from the 10 unions, on Friday presented flowers to Army Commander in Chief General Athit Kamlang-ek in a gesture of support for his call to amend the constitution.

General Athit was quoted as telling the labour leaders that he had offered his opinion regarding elections, political parties, elected MP's and appointed senators out of his pure intention to support democracy and the stability of the government.

Mr Bunnao denied that the unions had military support for the protest, insisting that the union leaders "are pure in their intention" to seek only to preserve the democratic system.

He said that the unions had demonstrated their support to General Athit because "we share a similar point of view".

Meanwhile, General Athit said yesterday that he had expressed support for the constitutional amendments in his former capacity as a senator and if nobody agreed with his opinions he would "sit by quietly" and refrain from making further comments.

"I would regret not having spoken out if something should happen; I would consider it disgraceful," he told a large audience which attended a discussion on the "Future Role of Administrators' Wives" at the New Amarin Hotel.

General Athit said that he had decided to resign from the Senate as he believed he could no longer serve the people effectively because of certain resistance to his support for the amendments.

Commenting on the resignation of eight military officers from the Senate, General Athit said that they had not been persuaded to step down. Their resignations could not be interpreted as a move to dissolve Parliament, he said.

General Athit said it would be difficult to prove a recent claim by a senior army officer that certain groups of people had received election campaign funds from foreign countries.

It would also be difficult to prove that laws governing election spending limits had been violated.

"An election law stipulates that a candidate may not spend more than 350,000 baht in a campaign," he said.

But he knew "for a fact" that many candidates had this limit in previous elections and no charges had been brought against them, again because of the difficulty of obtaining evidence.

CSO: 4200/333

THAILAND

LABOR UNIONS RALLY, SUPPORT AMENDMENT MOVE

BK250827 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 25 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] Labour unions rallied today at the Thailand Tobacco Monopoly (TTM) and at the Communications Authority of Thailand (CAT) with hundreds of workers claiming that they wanted better welfare benefits and that allegedly corrupt officials at the organizations be penalized.

Work at both enterprises was not affected by the protests.

The action echoed statements by union leaders that the constitution should be amended to maintain the power of the Senate and the privilege of permanent government servants to hold political positions as well as maintaining the old electoral voting system.

The law governing labour unions bans unions, established with the objective to protect working benefits, from becoming involved in politics.

Interior Minister Gen Sitthi Chirarot said this morning: "I can't say in black or white for the time being whether or not their action violates the law on the objectives of labour unions."

General Sitthi added that the workers had managed to find a reason for their actions in staging protests and said that he would study the action to see whether it violates the law or not. He also said "people should not take an opportunity to create a bad situation."

At about 8 a.m. today about 400 workers of the TTM rallied at Lumpini premises where their leaders used loudspeakers to deliver speeches attacking the director and all management officials for alleged administrative failure.

At the CAT Workers Union, leaders Sanam Phromkun and Watthana Iambamrung called a closed door meeting this morning after having announced that they would stage a rally at noon. Latest reports this afternoon indicated that several hundred CAT workers attended the rally when it began. The union claimed that they had initiated the protest against the management to press for severe disciplinary action to be taken against the head of the Radio Service Division, Thammun Chummanichot. The workers repeated in their rally today that they were dissatisfied with the committee's decision.

CSO: 4200/332

THAILAND

WORKERS DEMONSTRATE IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT

BK270145 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 27 Jan 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] About 500 stevedores and workers rallied at the Victory Monument yesterday to call on the government to either open a special parliamentary session or dissolve parliament to pave the way for an implementation of the previous electoral system.

Several labour activists took to the stage to severely criticize those who opposed the constitutional revision and insist that the system of dividing a province into more than one constituency and allowing voters to cast their ballots on individual-candidacy basis would be the best method for the upcoming general elections.

They called on the government to urgently open an extraordinary session of parliament or dissolve the national legislative body within seven days.

Workers who joined yesterday's demonstration claimed that they represented three major labour groupings--the Labour Congress of Thailand, the National Congress of Thai Labour and the Free Labour Council of Thailand--while stevedores identified themselves as members of the Marine Transport Labour Union.

Some labour leaders also attacked Social Action Party leader M. R. Khukrit Pramot and labelled him as a "dictator". They also carried posters which read: "We support General Athit. We are against dictatorship."

Leader of the Marine Transport Labour Union, Wichian Siwichian, announced to the crowd that the demonstrators were against a coup but "we will support it if the coup is staged for the sake of democracy."

Wichian also threatened to stage a nationwide strike if the government failed to concede to their demand within seven days.

Three hours after their rally at the victory monument, the demonstrating workers moved to the headquarters of the capital security command by passing Phra Mongkut Hospital and Chitralada Palace.

As they walked along the roads, some kept on shouting: "We don't want Khukrit. We want Athit."

Chief of staff of the Capital Security Command, Col Pricha Rotchanasen, met with the workers and told them that he was assigned by Army Commander in Chief Gen Athit Samlang-ek to welcome them.

He said he was glad to see so many people advocated General Athit's opinion.

Before they dispersed, a group of angry workers charged Wichian with breaking his promise. They said Wichian promised to give them compensation for joining the demonstration. Wichian finally took some cash from his pocket and handed it to the workers.

Some labour activists also proceeded to the Social Action Party head office to lay a wreath to show their protest before they left.

An executive of the Labour Congress of Thailand, Sunthon Kaeonet, last night insisted that the congress was not involved in yesterday's demonstration. He said he would inquire of other executives of the congress during their meeting on February 6 about the rally.

CSO: 4200/333

THAILAND

UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROUPS OPPOSE AMENDMENT MOVE

BK240231 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 24 Jan 83 p 6

[Text] While dock workers have repeated their support for the constitutional amendment, a group of university students has emerged to protest against the move, pasting up "anti-amendment" posters in many parts of the city yesterday.

Leader of Ramkhamhaeng University Students Union, Wiraphong Namwong, said about 3,000 posters attacking the attempt to revise the constitution and reopen the house were put up in the capital yesterday to "show our strong disagreement with the move."

He said students would stage a protest at the parliament if the National Assembly is reconvened to deliberate the constitutional amendments.

The posters which carry the name "Krasaetham Party, Ramkhamhaeng University Students Union", said the attempt to amend the constitution would pave the way to a dictatorship and eventually a coup in the country.

A group of students from higher education institutes calling themselves members of the Campaign for New Society Group met yesterday and severely criticized the proposed holding of a special parliamentary session.

Meanwhile, a stevedore leader announced that 60,000-70,000 dock workers would stage a strike if the move to reconvene parliament failed.

Leader of the Marine Transport Labour Union, Lamiat Pradapsi, said leaders of 10 stevedore unions would meet today to thoroughly discuss the issue.

He said most dock workers agreed with Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Athit Kamlang-ek's resignation from the Senate.

"We praise him for his courage and belief in democracy," a dock worker said.

Docker representatives from 10 unions also met yesterday to repeat their support for the constitutional amendments.

CSO: 4200/332

EDITORIAL NOTES PREM'S CALL FOR 'END TO CONFUSION'

BK270211 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 27 Jan 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Prem's Bid To Stop Confusion"]

[Text] Stop the political confusion. It had to be said and those words could not have come from a man more suited to say it than Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon. Call it an order, advice, a plea--what you will--but there is no question that it comes from the heart of a man who has strived very hard in difficult days to keep the country on an even keel. Perhaps it also shows a deep frustration that matters are getting out of hand and that his loud and clear voice has to be heard nationwide in order to stem whatever rot that may be setting in.

The political confusion reached an extent where it bordered on the ridiculous. It was nothing like the uprising of 1973 when the issues were clear. Here there were no issues, nobody was fighting for a cause and the only thing that we can say, perhaps wrongly, was that everyone except the prime minister was fighting for his name in the headlines. If our conclusion is right the first man we would blame is Col Phon Roengprasoetwit, leader of the Siam Democratic Party [SDP], for starting the ball rolling by his campaign to collect signatures for the reopening of the parliament. The SDP has no monopoly in the constitutional interests of the country when it has only about 25 seats in the House of Representatives and the major parties--Social Action and Chat Thai, let alone Democrat and Prachakon Thai--have steered clear of it.

Army Commander-in-chief Gen Athit Kamlang-ek also threw a spanner in the works by resigning from the Senate. But, before there is any misunderstanding, we must point out that his escutcheon is bright, clear and unsmudged, since he proved it beyond doubt during the "April fool coup" that he stood on the side of democracy. Perhaps what he said needed to be said: The armed forces do have a role in Thai politics. Wayward politicians needed to be reminded of it and if there is any flaw in what he said it was that he overstated the obvious.

Perhaps General Athit should not have resigned from the Senate because it nearly provoked a landslide of resignations from military personnel in the Senate until he had to come out in the open and say that he did not favour any further resignations.

Let us be honest. We are a long, long way from full democracy which even now remains, as T.S. Eliot would say, "a possibility in the realm of speculation." But there is one thing that the military must not do since the people have faith in the present government and the armed forces structure.
[sentence as published]

Prem is a man trusted both by the political parties and by the armed forces. At the helm of the ship of state, let him steer the course for this country--being a full-fledged army man and who has "played" political for about three years with various political parties. To repeat Prem's word: Stop the political confusion.

CSO: 4200/332

ARMY OFFICER CITES WARNING OF ELECTION INFLUENCE

BK220200 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 22 Jan 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] First Army Infantry Division Commander Maj Gen Phichit Kunlawanit said yesterday after he and at least seven other senior army officers resigned from the Senate that the mass resignations should serve as a "warning sign" for all concerned to heed the threat of "certain foreign influence" against national security if the electoral system was not amended.

In an exclusive interview with THE NATION, Maj Gen Phichit said: "I have already explained the external influence in the elections if the voting system in the general elections were not changed. I didn't say it as a joke. I have given out my warning since I have all the evidence in my hands. If the warning was not heeded, the military would have to take some actions to prevent the situation from deteriorating."

Maj Gen Phichit and seven other senior military officers, including commander of the Second Army Infantry Division, based in Prachinburi on the Thai-Kampuchean border, Maj Phibunphanuwat, handed in their resignations from the Senate yesterday--one day after Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Athit Kamlang-ek quit his Senate post.

More army officers are expected to hand in their resignations from the Senate today or Monday, informed sources said.

Asked why he had handed in his resignation, Maj Gen Phichit said: "I think I shouldn't stay on, that's all."

Informed sources said there are about 28 active army officers who are Senators. They are all expected to hand in their resignations in the next few days to "detach themselves from the ongoing political activities related to constitutional amendments," the sources said.

During the interview, Maj Gen Phichit said that he hoped that political parties would take into serious consideration his warning that certain foreign elements were trying to dump money for certain politicians to buy up votes in the upcoming elections for certain political ends which he said are detrimental to the country's national security.

"I Would Talk in Closed Session"

Asked about skepticism in certain circles that his allegation might have been a facade for other purposes, the first army commander said firmly:

"There is no use for us to conjure up a situation at all. Coups in the past were staged without any advance warning. They took over powers first and explained it later. But we have taken the pains to explain the imminent threat if the voting system wasn't changed."

Maj Gen Phichit added: "I have documented evidence to substantiate my warning about foreign influence trying to exploit our politicians. I can't make public the documents. But if it is a closed-door session, I'm ready to clarify the facts with the evidence we have."

He continued: "Let me stress that the military could not stand idly by when the country's security is threatened. The military is ready to take any actions for the country's survival although we might risk misunderstanding from certain people who have accused the military of being power-hungry. But we know that we are working for the benefit of the country and the people at large--not for any particular person."

During the hour-long interview, Maj Gen Phichit stressed the need to amend the constitution to prevent the enforcement of the combined-constituency system.

"If we allow the new system to be used (one slate of candidates from one party is to be picked by voters with one province being taken as one constituency, except for Bangkok and major provinces), only big parties will be returned to the House of Representatives and the foreign money would be exploiting some of them. At the same time, small parties would have no chance to be elected. According to our intelligence reports, foreign contacts have been made with at least two large parties," Maj Gen Phichit charged.

He also underscored the need to retain the powers of the upper house "since senators will be picked from people from all walks of life representing people of various groups and occupations. The existence of the Senate will make for political stability."

Maj Gen Phichit also said that the constitution should also be amended to allow government officials to become political appointees.

"Let me cite an example of the kind of chaos that could take place if the constitution was not amended and government officials were not permitted to take political posts. Take the Defence Ministry. If you make a politician defence minister without some proper screening, chaos will certainly reign," he said.

Maj Gen Phichit added: "I am not saying that government officials must necessarily be made political officers. But for certain positions, I think it is a necessity."

He charged that in the past a civilian politician was named defence minister, "politics was subsequently used in the military establishment and transfers were made without proper consideration. As a result, there was utter chaos. I don't want to see that happen again."

Other army officers who handed in their resignations as senators yesterday included Maj Gen Phisut Hemabut (deputy second army commander); Maj Gen Wimon Wongwan (commander of the first special fighting force); Col Akharadet Sasiprapha (commander of the first military police battalion); Col Saksri Khaengraeng (lecturer at military chief-of-staff college); Col Suthep Swara (deputy first army division commander) and Col Amporn Sawetselani.

CSO: 4200/332

POLITICIANS COMMENT ON ROLE OF MILITARY

BK210331 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Jan 83 p 3

[Text] A banner reading "The Democrat Party opposes and condemns coups d'etat" was unfurled at a panel discussion yesterday at which four leading politicians criticized the military over its involvement in the move to convene a special sitting of Parliament to amend the constitution.

The banner was unfurled by Democrat Party leader Phichai Rattakun at the discussion, held at the Sheraton Hotel by PATINYA magazine on the topic "Election 1983 and the Future of Thailand."

The panels other members were Chat Thai Party deputy leader Dr Anuwat Wattanaphongsiri, Social Action Party Secretary-General Koson Kraikoek and Chat Prachatipatai Party Secretary-General Dr Athit Urairat.

Referring to a comment which first Army Division Commander Maj Gen Phichit Kunlawanit made about a military "exercise" if the political situation leads to chaos, Mr Phichai said that soldiers had the right to express opinions as long as they did so on a equal footing with civilians.

Dr Athit said that the motive behind the military's support for the call for a special sitting was to extend the power of the Senate and to maintain a regulation under which civil servants may take up political appointments.

"That is the heart of the whole matter; it's not about changing the electoral system at all...the thing is the rulers of the country do not respect politicians and cannot stand to let them have power," Dr Athit said.

Dr Anuwat claimed that a move was afoot to discredit politicians and political parties through the mass media.

Some groups were using the media to claim that "this party is rotten, that party is full of millionaires," he said.

Mr. Koson dismissed Maj Gen Pichit's claim that he had evidence of foreign funding for a political party.

Mr Koson also said that it was more difficult to stage a coup d'etat because society was not willing to accept it.

"A coup to develop the stomach of the country is perhaps justifiable, but one to develop one's own stomach is just not on," Mr Koson said.

CSO: 4200/333

THAILAND

GENERAL HAN COMMENTS ON MILITARY ROLE IN POLITICS

BK220232 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Jan 83 p 20

[Text] Fourth Army Region Commander Lt Gen Han Leenanon said yesterday he strongly believed that the government will last until the end of its term and that there will be a general election despite recent uneasiness in the political arena.

The resignation of senators would not affect the Parliament because elected MP's form the mainstay of the parliamentary system, General Han said.

He said that General Athit's resignation from the Senate was in support of democracy.

General Han argued that it is necessary for the military to participate in politics.

"We all must bear the responsibility. The military supports the democratic system. The army will intervene if anyone tries to destroy democracy," he said.

He said that communism would rise again if Thailand was under a dictatorship. General Han said he could not comment on moves in Senate circles because he was not a senator.

Asked to comment on the political situation, he said he believed that the tension would be resolved soon.

He noted that the past two attempts to amend the constitution had failed and if it could not be amended, the electoral procedures would have to be followed accordingly.

Stressing that he was speaking as a private citizen, General Han was adamant that political parties would recruit "good people" as candidates for the election.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the prime minister's advisory committee, Dr Wathanyu na Thalang, said that the senators' resignations would not affect the government.

Dr Wathanyu said that the resignations would not have a direct effect on the Parliament, but he added that any indirect effects were difficult to predict.

He did not believe that the senators resigned as a sign of protest.

CSO: 4200/333

THAILAND

CPT LEADERS CALL FOR FIFTH PARTY CONGRESS

BK100228 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 10 Jan 83 pp 1, 2

[By THE NATION REVIEW political desk]

[Text] At least two communist leaders have approached other pro-Beijing leaders to support their proposal to hold the "Fifth Party Congress" in another struggle to heal the wounds of the outlawed Communist Party of Thailand (CPT), THE NATION learned yesterday.

Authoritative sources identified the two leaders as Winai Phoemphumsap, a Politburo member and secretary general of the CPT's lower northeastern operational zone, and Pluang Wannasi, a member of the party Central Committee and one of the three top leaders of the community of Thai communist cadres in Kunming, south of China.

The CPT leadership, however, has not yet accepted the proposal for the "Fifth Party Congress," which is virtually the informal reference in the rank and file of the outlawed party to the second meeting of party Central Committee elected by the Fourth Party Congress last year.

Commander of the Special Branch Division Pol Maj Gen Ophat Rattanasin and National Security Council (NSC) Secretary General Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri recently confirmed there have been efforts in the banned party to hold the so-called Fifth Party Congress.

Pol Maj Gen Ophat predicted that the crucial meeting would be inevitable.

An authoritative source quoted intelligence reports as indicating that Winai, who was among the "architects" of the new party line of thinking which was rejected in the Fourth Party Congress, is now in a difficult position.

He has been accused by radical members in the so-called progressive faction of reneging on his words as he was rewarded with a post in the seven-member Politburo, the supreme body of the party.

Winai was also quoted as complaining to his confidants that he would like to call it quits as Politburo member to disprove the allegation against him.

Another reliable source told THE NATION that Wirat Angkhathawon, one of the three permanent members of the Politburo and the most powerful pro-China leader, has been trying to boost Pluang's role in an apparent bid to win his allegiance.

"Superficially, the two party leaders seem to have no conflicts, but it is a guessing game whether Pluang holds any grudge against Wirat," he said.

The other two top leaders in Kunming were identified as Chan Krassanaipura, alias Comrade Nin, and Li Geng, whose jungle name is Comrade Pun, according to the source.

"Comrade Nin is obviously Wirat's follower. Their relationship is that of nepotism," he added.

He said that Comrade Nin yearned for a position in the party Central Committee, but his hopes did not materialize in the Fourth Congress.

It is not clear whether Pluang, Chan and Li Geng are responsible to another senior communist leader, Sak Supakasem, who is also living in exile in China, but the source confirmed that Sak was Wirat's follower.

Sak is believed to supervise the affairs of the CPT's "News Division" headed by Comrade Nop who was identified only as Suchin. Dissident communist defectors said that the division was believed to be supplying news releases to be emitted through the CPT's clandestine radio station in the name of the Voice of the People's News Agency.

They said that only information which had been screened again and again as not damaging to the credibility of the CPT leadership could be released through the news division.

CSO: 4200/332

THAILAND

BRIEFS

QUEEN VISITS ATHIT'S AILING WIFE--Her majesty the queen last night made a surprise visit to Phra Mongkutklao Hospital to see Khunying Praphasi Kamlang-ek, wife of Army Commander in Chief Gen Athit Kamlang-ek. Director of the hospital Maj Gen Singha Sawaphap, last night said Khunying Praphasi, who has been hospitalised since January 15 with lung complications and brain tumour, was in a satisfactory condition. He said that her condition was improving; although he was worried about the possibility of secondary infection. [Text] [BK260429 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Jan 83 p 1]

COMMUNIST CAMPS SEIZED IN SOUTH--Nakhon Sithammarat--Government troops seized three communist camps in this southern province and captured five insurgents in a series of clashes during the past week, Lt Gen Han Linanon said yesterday. The Fourth Army Region commander also said that his troops had confiscated a large number of weapons, communist documents and other war equipment before the seven-day anti-insurgent drive ended yesterday. However, about 60 insurgents managed to escape to nearby Surat Thani Province, he said. The drive, which was part of the "Tai Romyen 14 Plan", was launched on January 20 following reports that a group of insurgents from Krabi Province had gone into hiding in Thung Song District of this province. Meanwhile, it was reported yesterday morning that six communist suspects had been arrested at a police checkpoint in Lang Suan District of Chumphon Province, allegedly while on their way to a jungle meeting. The six, suspected to be high-ranking insurgents, were identified as Mrs Arom Thanom; Chitsanong Sophonpan; Kanchit Wirun; Watcharin Chatdet; Chamroen Thaikaao; and Phirun Kaeosing. [Excerpt] [BK280305 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Jan 83 p 5]

CPT LEADER 'QUITS' POLITICAL BUREAU--A newly-elected leader of the Communist Party of Thailand [CPT] quit last week after the party rejected his proposal to hold the Fifth Congress, a senior government intelligence source disclosed yesterday. The source told the BANGKOK POST that CPT Politburo member Winai Phoemphunsap urged the party to hold another congress because most of its young members, particularly those in the northeast, were dissatisfied with the outcome of the Fourth Congress. The source said the CPT explained that another congress could not be held so soon after the Fourth Congress last year because a new convention would damage the party's image. He said that Winai resigned from the Politburo after his decision and now plans to set up his own insurgency movement made up of young CPT members in the northeast. Winai, 52, was a former student activists of Thammasat University, who fled

into the jungle in 1957 during the Marshal Sarit Thanarat regime. He was elected a Central Committee member during the Third Party Congress in 1961 and was appointed secretary of the CPT in the lower part of the northeast in 1967. He was elected a Politburo member during the Fourth CPC Congress last April. [Text] [BK260219 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Jan 83 p 5]

LABOR GROUP SUPPORTS AMENDMENT MOVE—The Democratic Movement Group, whose members include prominent labour leaders, yesterday voiced strong support for amending the constitution, but called for the displacement of the present set of senators. Members of the group include Mr Ahmad Khamthetthong, Mr Sawat Lukdot and representatives of other worker groups including 10 stevedore unions. The group suggested that the senatorial structure be altered to allow representatives of labourers, students and farmers into the Senate, a member of the group, Mr Somphong Satawi, said. Mr Somphong also said that the military should maintain its own separate identity. [Excerpt] [BK240235 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Jan 83 p 1]

SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT—Chat Thai Party, the second largest political grouping in the House of Representatives, has decided to refrain from supporting the move to open a special session of Parliament, its senior members said yesterday. Party Secretary General Banhan Sinlapacha told THE NATION that his party would stay put because "We have never been told on what subjects they are going to deliberate in Parliament." He said Chat Thai MP's would not sign to advocate the motion for an extraordinary session. Chat Thai deputy leader Anuwat Watthanaphongsiri said his party leader, Maj Gen Praman Adireksan, had instructed all members last Friday "not to do anything for the moment." The party agreed early last week to allow its MP's to freely decide if they wanted to join the move. [Excerpt] [BK240247 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 24 Jan 83 p 1]

CSO: 4200/332

KAMPUCHEA: THORNY PROBLEM TO VIETNAM

Paris LE MONDE in French 7 Jan 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by special correspondent Jacques de Barrin]

[Text] As Phnom-Penh and Hanoi prepared to celebrate, on Friday 7 January, the fourth anniversary of the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge regime and its replacement by a pro-Vietnam government, violent skirmishes occurred on Wednesday along the Khmer-Thai border. Khmer troops commanded by Vietnamese attacked positions held by the resistance.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sparring over Cambodia continues. Prince Sihanouk, who has decided to halt temporarily his activities as head of the coalition, protested on Wednesday against India's decision not to invite him to the next summit meeting of nonaligned countries. Finally, while it is confirmed that China declares its readiness to seek a solution to the Cambodian problem, Hanoi reaffirms its willingness to negotiate, though it does not want to give up the gains of its policy, as our special correspondent Jacques de Barrin writes in the first article of his report on Vietnam.

Hanoi--Because the Soviet Union is seeking to smooth its differences with China; because last October, in New York, "Democratic Kampuchea" was taken under his wing by Prince Sihanouk and saw its rights brilliantly confirmed by the UN General Assembly; and because its economy is in dire need of Western aid--could Vietnam now be on the point of changing the broad lines of its foreign policy? Confidences exuded locally, and widespread rumors abroad have led certain observers of the Indochinese scene to think so.

At the moment, nothing indicates that Hanoi has modified anything but the form of its positions. As yet, Moscow's counsels of moderation have in no way affected them. Hanoi persists in maintaining that the Chinese regime is no longer a socialist one. "When it again becomes one, we shall withdraw our troops from Cambodia within 24 hours," states central committee

secretary Hoang Tung. In his opinion "the situation in Peking is unstable: there are internal struggles within the politburo itself." According to him, "those who urge normalization of relations with Vietnam are a minority."

The all-powerful Deng Xiao-ping remains the bete noire of the Hanoi leaders. His presence at the center of power "poses problems" for Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Co Thach. But, the latter adds, "Nixon concluded the Paris accords which put an end to the American war. When they fail in their designs, hawks are compelled to change their policy."

For the moment, according to Hanoi, "the Chinese hegemonists have not renounced invasion and annexation of Vietnam by every possible means." Nevertheless, according to M Thach, "a relative calm is noted along the Sino-Vietnamese border, where 100 military incidents per month were reported in 1980, 50 in 1981, and less than 10 since last August." But Peking is insidiously continuing psychological warfare more intently than ever, and stepping up economic sabotage. According to Col Tran Cong Man, editor-in-chief of the army daily QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, this change in tactics is aimed only at deceiving world public opinion, to "avoid appearing bellicose in its eyes."

"Chinese leaders do not at present consider it necessary to play the Vietnamese card," notes M Tung. "On the contrary, they wish to maintain a very high level of tension in Cambodia so as to have assets in hand for their negotiations with the USSR." The first address by CPSU secretary general Yuri Andropov had to be awaited for Hanoi to use that occasion to take note, in NHAN DAN, of the steps taken by Moscow to settle its differences with Peking.

"If the discussions with Moscow recognize the failure of Peking's collusion with the imperialists, they will have happy consequences for the region," thinks M Thach. But the Hanoi authorities suspect that if China seeks to reduce its military deployment on the Sino-Soviet border, it does so only to be better able to strengthen it on the Sino-Vietnamese border. They are likewise concerned to see their "big brother" play for a short-term gain--that of reduced tension in southeast Asia--at the risk of compromising the long-term security of the Indochinese peninsula.

"Withdrawal of our troops from Cambodia will not be the subject of any bargaining with Peking. We have received assurance of that from the Soviet Union," notes Col Thanh Tin, a member of the editorial committee of the Vietnamese CP daily NHAN DAN. "It is a matter of principle." If indeed the Soviet Union wishes to make some concessions on this question, how far could it push its Indochinese allies on the path to compromise without endangering its own political and strategic interests in southeast Asia?

The Albania of Asia?

Do the misunderstandings arising from resumption of the Sino-Soviet dialogue and the tensions created by hitches in Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation threaten, in the long run, to cause irreparable damage to relations between Moscow

and Hanoi? Between allies there is, to be sure, more contempt and mistrust than respect and confidence. Ideology, however compelling, cannot erase all differences of understanding and behavior which emerge between a great power and a Third World state, a European country and an Asiatic nation.

Do certain Vietnamese perhaps wish to see their country follow its own path? The warning issued last March, at the time of the fifth Vietnamese CP congress, by politburo member Le Duc Tho, seemed to be addressed to them: "Reactionaries and opportunists who seek to denigrate the party's policy of international solidarity ... will surely fail. Authentic patriotism is inseparable from a noble proletarian internationalism."

Vietnam will never be a socialist country quite like the others, if only because it is beyond Moscow's grasp, belongs to another continent, and must coexist with a large neighbor which shows but little friendliness toward it. All the same, Vietnam cannot hope to become "the Albania of Asia" and keep its distance from both the Soviet Union and China. The state of its economy obliges it to solicit the support of others more powerful than itself.

As an "outpost of communism in Asia" by its own definition, Vietnam is too dependent on the socialist community, both politically and economically, to emulate Egypt or Somalia in the foreseeable future, and change sides through a quarrel or palace revolution. Thus in spite of everything the alliance with the Soviet Union will remain, for a long time to come, "the cornerstone of foreign policy for the party and state," as Vietnamese CP secretary general Le Duan repeated to the fifth congress.

"The USSR respects our independence--we are sure of that," insists M Thach. Strengthened by that certainty, are Vietnamese leaders free to pursue in Cambodia a policy to safeguard their security, and thereby the interests of the entire socialist community?

The "Shield" of the South

The quite recent signature of a "document on strengthening cooperation between the Vietnamese Peoples' Army and the Cambodian Peoples' Army" illustrates the determination of the Hanoi leaders to preserve the fragile "re-birth" of their Indochinese ally, now perhaps more inclined than before to put some distance--at least verbally--between itself and its powerful protector. "No unilateral withdrawal of our troops," declares M Thach: "That is unacceptable. For us, it is a matter of principle and of security, a matter of life or death."

If the Hanoi leaders refuse to withdraw their troops from Cambodia without real guarantees, it is because they see Cambodia as the "shield" of South Vietnam, whose indiscipline they already have so much trouble correcting. And "China still has not abandoned its plan to divide our country," declares Col Man. "We know Peking is striving to mop up the Chinese community which lives in the south."

"Already, Pol Pot wanted to liberate South Vietnam and annex a large part of it in which there lived a population of Khmer origin," says Col Tin. "In December 1978 the Khmer Rouge threatened Tay-Minh, 90 km from Ho-Chih-Minh-ville (ex-Saigon). We then decided to counterattack." The Hanoi authorities thus wish to do everything to prevent history from repeating itself--at any cost.

Materiel, fuel, food, and those soldiers who otherwise would be students, workers, or farmers "cost us dear," admits Col Tin. Also on the debit side should be put the desertions, the exemptions from military service which are duly bought, and the weariness of the population with a war whose end is not in sight. No matter. "The task must be carried out to the end," says NHAN DAN's editor. "Historically, our struggles have always lasted for decades. Time is on our side."

M Thach continues to link the total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops to the signature of a nonaggression pact with Peking. By unilaterally deciding last July to bring home a few units from Cambodia, the minister considers that his government "hit the ball into the other court," even if the other side thought nothing of it. As to a new gesture by Hanoi, "we await a reaction from the other side, at least for now."

Could there be other matters to negotiate besides withdrawal of Vietnamese troops? Is the future of the Khmer people finally sealed? "We respect the principle of self-determination," M Thach prudently responds. But there are two points on which Hanoi will never compromise: "No return to power by Pol Pot; the solidarity of the three Indochinese countries is sacred."

Is it conceivable that following free elections or after an international conference Cambodia could become a free and independent state, as the UN tirelessly proposes? As a prudent diplomat, M Thach points out that "we communists firmly believe that the peoples are moving towards socialism: that is an irreversible trend." Privately, Cambodia is not negotiable, even though that country is still so far from being communist, as the minister stresses: "There is no land reform, no cooperatives, only a few state industries; gold is the medium of exchange ..."

It is out of the question to "start over from scratch," elect a new national assembly, form a new government, draft a new constitution, or--in a word--take the risk of seeing Cambodia leave the socialist community of which it is a full-fledged member. Of course Vietnam, if it wishes to benefit from Western aid, which was cut off when its troops invaded Cambodia in January 1979, will have to give some pledges of goodwill. But neither Hanoi nor Moscow seem prepared to accept such a sacrifice to safeguard peace and stability in southeast Asia. "Why talk of neutralization for Cambodia only, and not for Thailand?" asks M Thach with surprise. "That concept should be applied to the whole region." Thus a political normalization with Phnom-Penh is postponed indefinitely.

The New Delhi Rendezvous

Is it credible that under such conditions Prince Sihanouk could in the future play a role to match his ambitions? In the past few weeks Vietnamese leaders have been lavish with pleasant confidences concerning him. "In his time we could appreciate his nationalist spirit and popular prestige," confides Col Tin. Can he once again think correctly? "His case is not hopeless," considers NHAN DAN's editor.

"Sihanouk is not China, nor is he Pol Pot," notes M Thach. "He is but their instrument. To be intelligent is to attack the enemy, rather than the weapon he uses. Otherwise, we miss the main target." Can that instrument, of which the minister speaks, be recovered? "Yes," the latter answers, "if it can be used to destroy China and Pol Pot; no, if it wounds its user." That expresses the wholly honorific role Hanoi apparently wants to assign the former head of state. Could he be content once again to play the puppet, as he is reproached for doing today, paradoxically, by those whose only concern is to neutralize him lest he do harm?

By showing such regard for appearances, the Hanoi authorities prove their open-mindedness to both the USSR and the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand), as well as to the UN--to good advantage--while at the same time seeking to exploit divisions within the Cambodian opposition joined in a phantom coalition government. But the approach of the summit of nonaligned countries appears to have led them to adopt a harder tone toward Prince Sihanouk. By feigning to let the gates of the future open to him, do they not risk rallying numbers of the undecided to his cause?

So the Vietnamese leaders must play a very cautious game if they wish to bar the prince's access to the nonaligned rostrum. A reverse in those precincts would be far more serious for them than a defeat in the UN. There is no proof, however, that in such a case they would draw the proper conclusions. Hanoi has never balked at being right against everyone.

6145

CSO: 4219/29

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

FULRO PENETRATION, DISSOLUTION DESCRIBED

Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 4 Dec 82 HALO SOBOTA Supplement p 6

[Article by Bohuslav Borovicka: "FULRO - Fighters for an Alien Faith"]

[Text] On the way from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City, we stopped for a few days on the coast in Nha-trang. We were planning to start out on the last leg of our journey before daybreak. Two young men with submachine guns were leaning against the wall in the hotel lobby and watched as we carried our luggage to the car. Then they spoke with our interpreter. When the latter came back in a few minutes, he appeared annoyed and informed us that we could go back to bed because we could not leave until about 8 o'clock.

It was in this manner that I learned that the stories about roaming bands coming down from the mountains had not been completely unfounded. Not long before our visit, two cars had been attacked not far from Nha-trang. Since a curfew was still in force at the time, the people were not allowed to leave the city between 7 pm and 8 am. That was 2 years ago.

A few months ago, during a similar trip, we were again in the Palace Hotel in Dalat, a mountain resort in south Vietnam, and we pondered whether to continue the journey that day. It was a Sunday afternoon, the roads almost devoid of traffic, and the first leg of our journey led us through hilly slopes covered with dense jungle growth. Even back in Hanoi, we had been warned to be careful. Dalat was among the areas where the bandits appeared most often. In response to our queries, the local people only shrugged: "They appear once in a while, but lately we haven't heard much about them." In a slightly nervous state, nevertheless we set out shortly after noon and reached Ho Chi Minh City safely.

At the time, we naturally did not know that this was the final period of one of the most extensive and secret operations of the Vietnamese security forces, the goal of which was to rid the northwest portion of south Vietnam of the notorious legend called FULRO.

In translation, the French abbreviation means United Front for the Liberation of Oppressed Nationalities. This militant movement composed

of representatives of national minorities, has its roots back in the time when Indochina was under French control. Its members, organized in many groups, had always fought against foreign oppressors, and continued their battle even after the puppet government had been set up in Saigon under American patronage. The movement came into being in 1957 through the unification of several groups of the BAJARAK movement, from which FULRO emerged in 1965. The activity of the movement always combined national liberation elements with pronounced separatist tendencies.

A change came in 1969, when the Americans bought the FULRO leadership and awarded them high military ranks and titles in the South Vietnamese administration.

Under the Patronage of the "Green Berets" and the CIA

The American espionage service, CIA, was well aware that this approach tested more than once in the past, would pay its dividends. CIA agents took over the FULRO units which were trained in special military camps by instructors of the so-called Green Berets, killers trained for handling "special tasks". Following the training period, with American weapons and in uniforms of the Saigon army, the FULRO units assumed the role of police and punitive commandos on "their" territory, especially in the Cin-lal provinces of Kontum, Dac-lac and Lam-dong. FULRO thus became a component of the antipartisan struggle, its units conducted "punitive" forays against areas whose population was cooperating with the Vietnamese patriots. In the mountains and jungles where Americans and Saigon troops feared to tread, FULRO became their extended arm.

Following the signing of the Paris agreements, when the Americans had to leave Vietnam, the FULRO leadership continued to cooperate with the Saigon regime. The fall of the Vietnamese metropolis in the spring of 1975, which had been preceded by the liberation of Dalat, one of the centers of the "front," forced the FULRO to retreat again into the mountains and jungles. Their number was then estimated at about 20,000. During the initial period, members of the national minorities from which the bandits had been recruited offered them shelter and sanctuary. They were their people who had to be protected from the "communist terror" of which they had heard so much in Saigon propaganda.

While the people's administration strove to improve life in the mountains, supplied food, established schools and hospitals, the FULRO "thanked" it with terror. There were daily reports of murders of people, officials, attacks against economic installations and civilian, as well as military vehicles.

Pol Pot -- the New Ally

It did not take long before the FULRO leadership gained another ally in their battle against the people's power -- the Pol Pot leadership in Cambodia. Through its intermediary, the arsenal of the bandits was

replenished with Chinese arms, and a safe haven was found for them in neighboring Cambodia which they retreated to whenever their situation became too uncomfortable in Vietnam.

During several of the postwar years, the FULRO lost little of its positions. It had a sizeable, well-equipped army, illegal administrative organs in a territory it had divided into four military zones, it even had its own "government" and "president." When it appeared that everything was going precisely according to the American "postwar plan," there was suddenly a break in several different directions.

The results of the nationality policy consistently implemented by the Vietnamese Government from the very outset, began to bear fruit. The mountain people were becoming increasingly aware of their existential certainties for the present and the future. Those who had been brainwashed with the slogan "defend our mountains," suddenly realized that new opportunities never before available were opening up quite naturally for them without any struggle whatever. By the hundreds, FULRO rank-and-file began returning to their homes so that they too could taste peaceful life for the first time in decades.

In early 1979, Cambodia was liberated and the FULRO not only lost its allies but also its contacts with those forces in foreign countries which supplied arms and ammunition, while maintaining the "fighting spirit" of its adherents.

At that point, Vietnamese security organs also began to put into operation a plan whose aim it was to bring about an accelerated internal disintegration of the FULRO.

Like a Spy Novel

Through the open window across from a small park, one could hear the hum of a Hanoi street. On a broad table in the center of the room there is a large-scale map of the northwestern section of south Vietnam, the plateaus of Taynguyen and Lam-vien, photographs, handwritten leaflets, unfilled copies of official forms and stamped documents. Comrade Thanh Tin, one of those who participated in the final phase of FULRO liquidation, is pouring tea and, with a smile, promises me a plot for a spy novel.

"We have established small groups of our people who had the task of penetrating the ranks of the FULRO," Comrade Tin begins his story. "We needed to find out as much as possible about them, their organizational structure, internal conflicts, names of leaders, their relationship, and their plans. An excellent job was performed by one of our people whose code was T 24. She had succeeded in getting close to one of the prominent FULRO commanders, a former colonel of the Saigon army, K'ty, who commanded the so-called southern operational zone. For a whole year, we received invaluable information directly from their general staff. We acquired some 60 photographs of all those who had any standing in the FULRO."

Naturally, I wanted to know something about the clever T 24. Comrade Tin leafed through the file with the photographs for a while, and then spread out a few of them in front of me. They were ordinary pictures such as a group of friends would take during an outing, different faces, except one which appeared on all of them, a smiling girl with hair flowing down to her shoulders. This was T 24 who was an officer of Vietnamese security.

"She returned to us in August and with the reports she brought we were at last in a position to launch the planned operation. We knew that the FULRO was looking for ways to establish contacts abroad. We had detained a woman in Dalat whose task it was to contact in Ho Chi Minh City the Catholic organization Caritas which we knew as being hostile to us and to have contact with religious institutions in Rome, Paris and Manila. The apprehended agent was returning to the FULRO general staff with a letter in which Caritas pledged assistance."

Successful Trap

The organizers of the operation set in motion its final and decisive phase. It was no problem to procure paper with the Caritas letterhead, manufacture a rubber stamp, and imitate the signature of one of the top officials of the organization. Before long, a slightly "adapted" message saw the light of day, in which Caritas invited leaders of the front to a meeting at which details about contact with foreign countries would be discussed. The question was how to deliver the letter without arousing suspicion. The security officers decided to take a calculated risk. They persuaded the apprehended agent to cooperate and, after a few days' detention, allowed her to continue her journey.

The following days were filled with suspense. Would the trap succeed? If the wary FULRO leaders saw through the game, it would be necessary to start again from a different angle. Chin-k'-Leng, however, did not fail. In 10 days she returned with a reply. The FULRO leadership announced that it accepted the Caritas proposal and that the meeting would be attended by Naria Duc, who not long before had been promoted from commander of the military zone to one of the highest positions in the "front", that of "first vice president and deputy prime minister."

The trap was going to be filled with prey of a caliber no one had expected. Yet, the officers responsible for the management of the operation did not celebrate even then. What if the FULRO had seen through the game after all and was preparing a trap of its own?

On the designated day at 5 AM, several dozen pair of eyes were watching the selected site -- kilometer 194 of Route 20. A light-gray Volga pulled to a stop and the driver lifted the hood. A man riding a bicycle and carrying a bundle of brushwood, stopped, offered the driver a cigarette, stood around briefly, and then rode off on his way. Ten minutes later, a group of men emerged from the forest. Their attire at this time of day in this location would have astonished any casual witness -- white shirts and

polished dress shoes. The driver who had meanwhile closed the hood, did not seem to be surprised. He passed to all four arrivals orders for employees of the forestry administration traveling to Ho Chi Minh City on official business and, the four having entered the car, the Volga started out. At a railroad-crossing barrier in Cam-ranh it joined the line of waiting cars. Suddenly, the car doors on both sides burst open and the "vice president" and his entourage were staring at pistols of the security officers.

Along with Naria Duk, the arrested were "minister of communications" Ha Krang and two majors of the FULRO "general staff."

The Curtain Falls

"Naria Duc is an intelligent man," Comrade Tin went on with his narrative. "It took some time but finally he agreed to cooperate. With his help we succeeded in luring other FULRO leaders out of the jungle."

The "front" was left without a head. Most of its leadership fell into the hands of Vietnamese security. The disintegration of the demoralized units was accelerated by leaflets calling for an end of the fight and return home, addressed to the FULRO rank-and-file by Naria Duc and his companions.

Armed bands are still roaming the mountains and jungles of Tay-nguyen. From time to time they descend to the vicinity of roads and villages. The flag with the half-crescent and star, however, has ceased to flutter over their heads, and they are no longer interested in political proclamations issued by their "president," Y-b'-Ham, from somewhere in exile. They loot rice lofts and attack honest people to acquire bits of clothing. Increasingly fewer of them return to the mountains.

The "battle determination" has survived only with those who in the comfort of their residences beyond the sea are planning new adventures against their former homeland, such as, for example, "Plan Z", in which the authors elaborated in detail how to seize power in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. This plan was to be completed in 1985, however, reality was a bit different.

(The published document is from the archives of Vietnamese security).

9496

CSO: 2400/81

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

TAX COLLECTING METHODS CRITICIZED, MEASURES SUGGESTED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 11 Dec 82 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Industrial and Commercial Tax"]

[Text] The industrial and commercial tax is an efficient tool destined to encourage the various industrial and commercial sectors to produce in a way beneficial to both the economy and people's living conditions, and to make the contribution of individuals and business enterprises to the building and defense of the fatherland just and equitable. It also helps regulate unjustified income, prevent activities that do not benefit the people's economy, control the market, fight against criminal activities, illegal accumulation of goods, smuggling of goods and sabotage of the market. For this purpose, taxes are, without any doubt, the most effective means to help the state exercise its control and classification of the activities of private business enterprises and individuals.

Classification and control by means of tax not only ensure a stable and appropriate production process, thus increasing labor productivity, but also produce an important effect on the saboteurs of socialist reforms and also small entrepreneurs' tendency toward capitalist spontaneity.

The collection of the industrial and commercial tax has shown signs of improvement, and there has been an increase in the amount of tax received. At the end of November, 6 provinces and 45 districts have completed the collection of tax for the whole year. However, the receipts in many other localities were still lower than the amount assessed, and more importantly, were far from truly reflecting the actual business activities. Tax delinquencies are still high, and they include merchandise tax, business tax, income tax as well as slaughtering tax.

It is unfortunate that many of our comrades are still undecided as to "who is the winner," socialism or capitalism. Thus they are less aware of the dictatorship of the proletariat, and allow the thought of business spontaneity, tax dodging and tax evasion to develop. They are slow in making changes in tax policy and negligent in collecting tax.

In view of the versatility of our economic system, the industrial and commercial tax, as means of motivation, should be reorganized to conform to the new

situation, by strictly enforcing the tax collecting procedure and firmly fighting against any attempts to evade tax. To help the industrial and commercial tax reach its goal of serving production and circulation and sharing the burden of the state's budget, more efficient ways of collecting tax are needed and encouraged. The tax authority must have within its grasp, the control over the industrial and commercial production of any scope or area, collective or individual, and also over the household collective activities, permanent or seasonal, so as to plan appropriate tax collection in accordance with their production, and not to leave any area unaffected. It is also important that anyone who is licensed to operate a business register with the tax authority, especially during the Tet season when there is an increase in the number of merchants who specialize in goods destined for the holiday. With regard to business and income taxes, emphasis should be given to a better classification of households according to the degree of their industrial and commercial activities, and to the frequent verification of accounting books and supporting documents of larger households. Economic, education and administrative measures must be concurrently considered, so as to ensure the collection of an equitable tax that truly reflects the activities of the trade. Continually adjust the household business income tax that is still low. Follow up and collect tax from newly established businesses and do not allow them to be delinquent on subsequent tax. Past due tax by households and cooperatives which engage in industrial and commercial activities must be collected promptly and made available to the budget.

Monetary resources in general and taxes in particular do affect people of every walk of life. People should be made aware of the state's monetary and tax policy, so as to recognize that their contribution is an obligation and an important stepping stone, indispensable to the fulfillment of the tax collecting program. With the help of the combined education and administrative methods, every locality should make it easy for its working people to participate in the fight against speculation, contraband, false declaration of tax, tax evasion and delay in payment of tax. The collection of the industrial and commercial tax should be carried out in strict coordination with the control over the market and prices. Attempts to increase prices erratically or sabotage of the market must be severely punished. Launch a massive campaign to enlist the public to participate actively in these dual programs: welcome and support the business entrepreneurs that duly pay tax; and promptly and properly deal with those who engage in illegal business activities or evade taxes; denounce and severely punish dishonest businessmen who engage in speculation, contraband and sabotage of the market. The tax structure must always be improved and consolidated; capricious reduction or exemption of tax, in disrespect of the tax policy, must be categorically discouraged. The tax collectors must strictly apply the tax policy, be highly responsible and honest, restrain themselves from being corrupt or abusing the public.

With effective methods, provoke a gigantic reform to the task of collecting the industrial and commercial tax and controlling the market, so as to increase the budget, provide the bank with liquid assets, and gradually normalize prices, currency and living conditions--a great contribution to the victory of socialism over the other side in our battle to determine "who the winner is."

12238

CSO: 4209/165

BRIEFS

STANDARDS OF QUALITY--Maintaining and even increasing the level of production, in such difficult times as we now are enduring, is something we all welcome. However, productivity must always go hand-in-hand with quality; and a number of factories, enterprises, cooperatives and work cooperation teams have done well in that area. Nevertheless, several others still view high yield as the only objective and pay little attention to quality. During the first semester of this year, certain handicraft products, parts of which came from Hanoi, were rejected by consumers at an alarming rate of five to seven times higher than that of the same period last year. A number of products made of bamboo ought to be destroyed, because they were mildewed or damaged by wood-eating worms. In one single shipment of more than 6,000 square meters of carpet, 4,000 were found of substandard quality, etc. Naturally, producers are liable if their merchandise is of such inferior quality. In addition to repairing merchandise, compensating buyers, incurring other expenses, producers harm themselves with the loss of their customers' confidence. There can be quick ways to make money, but confidence can only be acquired by long and patient struggle. Therefore, to the producers, quality is a vital question. [Text] [Hanoi DOC LAP in Vietnamese 1 Dec 82 p 4] 12238

INEFFICIENT TAX COLLECTION--Located at the center of the city, Dalat market enjoys the patronage of an appreciable clientele, not including those coming from the delta and Ho Chi Minh City. Many of the merchants there operate without appropriate licenses. On the average, each butcher slaughters (20) hogs a day, but rarely pays the relevant tax. In the meantime, the city's purchasing station is able to buy only what amounts to one-fourth of hogs purchased by private operators, but must give in exchange 300 tons of fodder. The tax collecting stations prove inefficient in carrying out the state's regulations; the hog slaughterers have eluded the tax for the past several years. The tax authority collects a mere 2,000 piasters of income tax a month while each slaughterer kills at least two hogs a day and gets away with 400 piasters of tax. The butcher stalls arbitrarily raise their prices, sometimes two or three times a day. [Text] [Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 14 Dec 82 p 2] 12238

CSO: 4209/165

AGRICULTURE

EXPANSION IN SERICULTURE, TEXTILE INDUSTRY URGED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 14 Dec 82 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Sericulture 1982. Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Hectares of Mulberry Planted, An Increase of 2,500 Hectares; 8,000 Hectares of Cotton, An Increase of Almost 1,000 Hectares, Compared to 1981; Almost One Million Meters of Silk, Shantung Manufactured. Yield of Mulberry, Cocoons, Silk Not High Enough; Quality Mediocre"]

[Text] According to the Ministry of Agriculture's preliminary data, there were, up to now, more than 11,500 hectares of mulberry planted in the whole country, in centralized areas or scattered plots, an increase of 2,500 hectares; 2,500 tons of cocoons were produced, 300 tons more than the 1981's production; 13 provinces and cities have improved nearly 10,000 hectares of land destined exclusively to the centralized cultivation of mulberry; Hanoi, 770 hectares and 300 tons of cocoons; Ha Son Binh, 670 hectares and 240 tons of cocoons; Lam Dong, 280 hectares and 220 tons of cocoons; Nghe Tinh, 650 hectares and 180 tons of cocoons....

This year, the Central Sericultural Corporation provided to its bases 220 tons of seeds, 30 tons more than in 1981 and adjusted the supply to localities with more than 1,000 tons of [awn seedlings]. This corporation also distributed 780,000 rings of silkworm's eggs, 30,000 more than in 1981.

The scattered sericulture, which aimed at helping local people partly solve for themselves their needs in clothing, has become very popular in 30 or 40 provinces and cities (a total of 800 villages) and involved 1,631 hectares. The planting was performed in extensive-use lands with the help of household auxiliary labor, but the yield of silk was so high it helped produce more than one million meters of silk fabric and shantung. Typical cases of involvement in sericulture were found in large numbers this year. Members of the Ha Bac's cooperatives planted more than 2,343,000 mulberry plants (an average of four per member), produced 7,819 kilograms of silk and 207,104 squares of silk fabric. The Province of Hai Hung planted 241.6 hectares of mulberry. The Districts of Quan Hoa (Thanh Hoa), Binh Lieu (Quang Ninh), Viet Yen (Thuan Thanh), Hiep Hoa (Ha Bac), Lac Son, Mai Chau (Ha Son Binh), Dong Hung, Vu Thu (Thai Binh), Dien Ban (Quang Nam-Da Nang), etc., have proved most successful in scattered sericulture.

Many localities, bases and families also actively engaged in the growing of cotton, ramie and other fibrous plants. During the first part of 1982, tribesmen in a number of districts of the 13 mountainous provinces have planted 8,000 hectares of cotton, scattered throughout their hilly, mountainous and extensive-use lands, an increase of nearly 1,000 hectares compared to 1981. The districts of Na Ri, Cho Don (Bac Thai), Mang Giang (Gia Rai-Kontum), Quan Hoa (Thanh Hoa), Na Hang (Ha Tuyen), Quang Hoa (Cao Bang), Lac Son, Mai Chau (Ha Son Binh), Huu Lung (Lang Son), Thang Son (Vinh Phu) each planted 150 to 450 hectares of cotton. The scattered sericultural movement exists in 139 of the 240 cooperatives of the nine mountainous districts of Ha Son Binh. In 1982, they planted 1,429 hectares. The District of Lac Son, alone, planted 450 hectares, an increase of 200 hectares compared to 1981. Concurrently with the planting of cotton, farmers repaired and restored thousands of looms, including those [called] improved looms, needed to produce better fabrics. Looms have become a household item in most families of the mountainous region.

Although sericulture is a new endeavor, and its implementation has been organized and supervised for only a few years, the results have proved successful in many aspects. In a number of provinces and districts, cooperatives and families have solved in part their needs in clothing, mattresses, blankets, pillows, coats, etc.

Taking advantage of local labor, cooperatives, production groups and families of different trades and sectors and in many localities have expanded extensively their production of staple goods, thus they have been able to increase their income, solve in part their needs as to clothing, food, medications, and supply more fertilizers for the intensive cultivation of plants.

However, the development of the centralized sericulture and specialized cultivation for this year was still slow. The supply of food, other necessities and materials for special use, prescribed by the two-way economic contract, and the cocoon purchasing procedure have not met our expectation. The scattered sericulture has not uniformly developed and been consolidated. The southern provinces and cities, especially those in the Mekong Delta, have not started planting or have planted only in small quantities. The specialized cultivation of mulberry was still slow. The average yield of mulberry, cocoons and silk was not as high as expected, their quality has still been unsatisfactory and their economic effect insignificant. Some involved organizations did not effectively respond to the needs of the production with regard to silkworm eggs, breeding silkworms, specialized materials and technical guidances, etc. An important number of sectors and bases have failed to recognize how important sericulture is to us, consequently, they have been unable to use appropriate policy and measures to expand sericulture to every part of the country.

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HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

BRIEFS

SEMINAR ON UNICEF--Officials of the United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF) met with representatives of our involved organizations at a seminar held in Hanoi last 8 and 9 December. The objective of the meeting was to single out the experiences gained from the implementation of previous UNICEF aid programs to Vietnam in 1980-82 to improve the application of new aid programs of \$27 million which UNICEF had earmarked for Vietnam for 1983-86. Attending the seminar were representatives of the Committee for Economic Relations with Foreign Countries, State Planning Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Committee for Reception of Foreign Aid, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Central Committee for Protection of Mothers and Children, Vietnam Women Union, Central Committee for Youth and Children, etc. Representing UNICEF were Mrs (Titi Memet Tanumityaya), director of UNICEF East Asia and Pakistan sector; Mr (Ph. Cronphone), permanent delegate and many other UNICEF technicians and program assistants who are presently stationed in Vietnam. The meeting occurred in an atmosphere of cooperative friendship. Many profitable experiences were summarized which will be used by both sides in the future. [Text] [Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 12 Dec 82 p 4] 12238

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